



Agenda item 11(a)
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
Assisting the victims
Wednesday 1 December

Section IV of the Cartagena Action Plan under Assisting the Victims contains 11 actions, all of them particularly relevant to those States Parties accountable to and responsible for the well-being of significant numbers of mine survivors.

As stated by the Geneva Progress Report, the Cartagena Action Plan reaffirms the understandings on victim assistance. The eleven victim assistance actions represent commitments by States Parties, such as the inclusion and full and active participation of victims and their representative organisations in victim assistance activities, the establishment of an inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordination mechanism, the development and implementation of national plans, policies and legal frameworks, the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, stronger national ownership, the development of capacity building and training plans or the increase of availability of and of accessibility to appropriate services, among others.

We are encouraged by the progress reported by many States Parties with regard to these commitments.

Nevertheless, we take note of the findings in this year's Landmine Monitor Report that for victim assistance implementation, 2009 was a relatively static year for service provision to survivors, with some improved quality and/or accessibility of services in 11 countries or other areas, but a decline in nine others." We hope States Parties and other actors could provide some clarification on these elements raised by the Landmine Monitor.

The United Nations acknowledges once again that mine action merely complements other sectors charged with the responsibility for public health and the wellbeing of survivors and that the actors in those sectors should remain in the lead. Actually, as discussed during the last Intersessionals and highlighted by the President of the Second Review Conference on her paper dated 26 November 2010, victim assistance has different timelines, might involve distinct actors and might relate to different national institutional frameworks and budget lines.

While the specificity of victim assistance vis-à-vis other pillars of mine action, explains the establishment of a parallel programme during Intersessionals and meetings of states parties, we would welcome enhanced discussions on victim assistance during plenary sessions for the benefit of all delegations and not mainly of victim assistance and/or disability experts. We think it is a positive idea that in this occasion the parallel event has a special focus on community-based rehabilitation, including a workshop on the Guidelines on Community-Based Rehabilitation. This approach should also be reflected in discussions regarding international assistance and cooperation and resource mobilization.

While mine action programmes, including those managed or supported by the United Nations, could supplement the above-mentioned sector leadership through gathering victim data, disaggregated by sex and age, they should support that national coordination and advocacy for victim assistance takes place at the highest possible level in the governmental structures.

Last but not least, the United Nations Mine Action Team encourages once again States Parties to use the framework provided by the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD), now in its year of life, to facilitate the full enjoyment by mine and ERW victims of their human rights. We welcome the accession to the CRPD by more mine and ERW affected countries.